

# City of Detroit

## CITY COUNCIL

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TO: Deborah Gaskin, Director  
Board of Ethics

FROM: Irvin Corley, Jr., Fiscal Analysis Director *dy.*

DATE: April 27, 2010

RE: 2010-11 Budget Analysis

Attached is our budget analysis regarding your department's budget for the upcoming 2010-2011 Fiscal Year.

Please be prepared to respond to the issues/questions raised in our analysis during your scheduled hearing on **Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.** We would then appreciate a written response to the issues/questions at your earliest convenience subsequent to your budget hearing. Please forward a copy of your responses to the Councilmembers and the City Clerk's Office.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding our budget analysis.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

IC:ss

Attachment

cc: Councilmembers  
Council Divisions  
Auditor General's Office  
Pamela Scales, Budget Department Director  
Thomas Lijana, Finance Department Director  
Rene Short, Budget Department Team Leader  
Kamau Marable, Mayor's Office

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## Board of Ethics

### FY 2010-2011 Budget Analysis by the Fiscal Division

#### Summary

In the City Charter, Section 2-106 Standards of Conduct, the Board of Ethics (Board) was established as an independent board. The Board of Ethics consists of seven members of the public: three appointed by City Council; three appointed by the Mayor; and one jointly appointed by the Mayor and City Council. Board members serve without compensation. City Council first enacted the Ethics Ordinance in 2000, and the ordinance was amended in 2006.

The Board issues advisory opinions on the meaning and application of provisions of the Charter, City ordinances or other laws or regulations establishing standards of conduct for elective officers, appointees, or employees. An elective officer, appointee, or employee will be given an advisory opinions upon written request. The Board annually in a report to the Mayor and City Council publishes advisory opinions. The opinions shall not disclose the identity of the elective officers, appointees, or employees concerned.

The Mayor's 2010-2011 Proposed Budget for includes appropriations \$264,033 in the City's Non-Departmental Agency, which is a decrease of \$14,756 or 5.3% from fiscal year 2009-2010 budget of \$278,789.

#### 2009-2010 Surplus/(Deficit)

There is no estimated surplus or deficit for the Board.

#### Overtime

The Mayor's 2010-2011 Proposed Budget does not reflect any overtime for the Board, which is unchanged for fiscal year 2009-2010.

#### Personnel and Turnover Savings

There is no projected turnover savings for the Board.

#### Proposed Layoffs and Position Changes

There are no changes in Budgeted positions in the Mayor's 2010-2011 Proposed Budget.

Significant Funding Changes in Appropriation

Appro.    Program  
10397    Board of Ethics

The Mayor recommends a total fiscal year 2010-2011 appropriation budget of \$264,033 for the Board of Ethics, which is a decrease of \$14,756 (5.3%) from the current year budget of \$278,789. The decrease is the result of an increase of \$11,166 in employee benefits, a reduction of \$922 in operating services, and a decrease of \$25,000 in other expenses.

Issues and Questions

1.    What has the Board of Ethics done in FY 2009-2010 to make City public servants, politicians, appointees, and employees more aware of the Ethics Ordinance and its impact on their work and City operations?
2.    The \$25,000 for Training that was included in the Board of Ethics' fiscal year 2009-2010 budget was eliminated in the Mayor's 2010-2011 Proposed Budget. What type of training was budgeted for in 2009-2010? Has any training been scheduled in fiscal year 2010-2011?
3.    What steps has the Board of Ethics taken to ensure the public's trust in city government?
4.    What effect, if any, has the Board's opinions had on improving city government?
5.    Could the Board post the opinions on-line?
6.    Are there changes to the Charter that would improve this Board?